

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOG, PFOR, WB, UK, UR, US, FR

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY DEMARCHE ON RUDOLF HESS

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REF: LONDON 4476; LONDON 5173; BONN 3545; BONN 4886;
BONN 4176(NOTAL)

1. DEPT SYMPATHIZES WITH GOAL OF HESS RELEASE ON
HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE
WITHOUT SOVIET CONSENT BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF
OBSERVANCE OF FOUR POWER AGREEMENTS IN BERLIN CONTEXT.
WE ARE NOT SANGUINE ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING
SOVIETS AROUND, BUT ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO TRY (FYI-
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HESS WAS RAISED DURING SECRETARY'S RECENT VISIT TO
MOSCOW. DETAILS REPORTED SEPTEL. END FYI.)

2. DEPT RECOGNIZES NEED TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE
WITH PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTATION. ON THE OTHER HAND,
INFORMING THEM IN DETAIL OF ALLIED MOVES WITH REGARD
TO HESS COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE WITH SOVIETS, AND

AMONG ALLIES COULD REDUCE FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO FREE HESS.

3. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TRACE HESS' SON'S LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT (LONDON 5173) OR WHETHER REPLY WAS SENT FROM WASHINGTON. WE ASSUME IT IS SAME AS COMMUNICATION TO EMBASSY BONN (BONN 3545), TO WHICH WE UNDERSTAND EMBASSY HAS REPLIED.

4. FOR LONDON: YOU SHOULD INFORM DEPUTATION AS FOLLOWS:

-- THE US AND ITS BRITISH AND FRENCH ALLIES SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT RUDOLF HESS SHOULD BE RELEASED FROM PRISON ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS;

-- WE AND OUR ALLIES HAVE MADE REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS TO THIS EFFECT TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT OVER THE LAST DECADE BUT THE SOVIETS HAVE CONSISTENTLY REBUFFED OUR APPROACHES. THE SOVIETS ARE WELL AWARE OF OUR VIEWS, AND YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT THE SUBJECT WILL BE STRESSED TO THEM AGAIN;

-- TO BE PERFECTLY FRANK WITH YOU, WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THE SOVIETS CAN BE CONVINCED TO ALTER THEIR

POSITION. THEY ARE ADAMANT THAT HESS IS UNREPENTENT, AND THAT HIS RELEASE ON WHATEVER GROUNDS WOULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD AS A PARDON FOR NAZI MISDEEDS;

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-- WE UNDERSTAND THE SENTIMENT THAT THE WESTERN ALLIES SHOULD SIMPLY RELEASE HESS WITHOUT SOVIET CONSENT. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT CONSIDER THIS A REALISTIC ALTERNATIVE. ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT PHYSICAL CONTROL AND OPERATION OF THE PRISON REMAINS UNDER THE JOINT CONTROL OF GOVERNORS AND WARDENS OF ALL FOUR NATIONS, HESS IS IMPRISONED PURSUANT TO FOUR POWER AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD REQUIRE UNANIMITY TO CHANGE. IF THE WESTERN ALLIES SHOULD RELEASE HESS UNILATERALLY, THE SOVIETS COULD WELL REACT BY DISREGARDING FOUR POWER AGREEMENTS DISTASTEFUL TO THEM WHICH ARE CRITICAL FOR THE FUTURE OF BERLIN.

5. FOR USBERLIN: DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE BRIEF OUTLINE OF PRESENT REGULATIONS GOVERNING CONDITIONS OF HESS' IMPRISONMENT, AS WELL AS DESCRIPTION OF MANNER IN WHICH THOSE CONDITIONS WERE IMPROVED IN 1970 AT ALLIED REQUEST.

6. FOR BONN AND USBERLIN: REQUEST TO EXTENT APPROPRIATE
LONDON, PARIS, AND MOSCOW BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE TRAFFIC
RELATING TO HESS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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Film Number: D770119-0149
Format: TEL
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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